

Art Unit 2182
Serial No.: 10/789,889

Reply to Office Action of: October 10, 2006
Attorney Docket No.: K35A1449

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) In an external disk drive system comprising a disk drive, a bridge controller comprising a plurality of Bridge Controller Host (BCH) interfaces adapted to establish communication between the external disk drive system and an external device via a plurality of different communication mediums, a method for switching from a first BCH interface communicating with the external device via a first communication medium to a second BCH interface during the operation of the external disk drive system, the method comprising:

sensing a connecting of a second communication medium to the external disk drive system via the second ~~bch~~ BCH interface;

determining an interface priority of the second communication medium relative to ~~over~~ an interface priority of the first communication medium;

communicating a request for dismounting the disk drive from the external device via the first BCH interface;

dismounting the disk drive from the first communication medium if a valid response is received from the external device via the first BCH interface ~~based on the determining;~~ and

mounting the disk drive to the second communication medium wherein the external disk drive system remains operational during the dismounting and mounting.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the external device is a host computer.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the external disk drive system is adapted to communicate with a plurality of external devices via the plurality of BCH interfaces and the plurality of different communication mediums.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining, the dismounting and the mounting are performed in part by firmware executed in the bridge controller.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the interface priority of the first communication medium is pre-assigned.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the interface priority of the second communication medium is pre-assigned.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the external disk drive system further comprises a storage device in communication with the external device via the first communication medium, and wherein the storage device remains in communication with the external device.

9-10. (Canceled)